THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MI NISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLE MENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Percentage of population below the poverty line for the year 1987-88 for which estimates are available is 29.2.

(b) Poverty line is not defined in terms of per capita income. It is defined in terms of *per capita* expenditure. For the reference year 1987-88 the poverty line was Rs. 131.80 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 152.13 per capita per month for urban areas.

(c) The estimates of percentage of people below the poverty line are availa ble for 1983-84 and 1987-88. This per centage has declined from 37.4 in 1983-84 to 29.2 in 1987-88.

(d) The programmes of poverty al leviation taken up are, special employ ment programmes (both self employment and wage employment) as well as Spe cial Programmes for the improvement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These Programmes provide income ge nerating assets to the poor and also en sure wage employment. During the cur rent year and Employment Guarantee Scheme has been introduced for the drought prone areas and areas with an acute problem of rural unemployment.

(e) The Approach to the Eighth Five Year Plan places employment generation as the major thrust for ensuring more balanced and equitable development. It envisages a full employment stratagy which would be operationalised by ensuring that growth is widely distributed across regions and sections of the population and is of a kind and magnitude which can absorb the increase in the labour force and the backlog of unemployment. The pattern of investment will be oriented in favour of employment intensive sectors as a part of this strategy. Special programmes to provide employment on a guaranteed basis are also visualised.

(f) The per capita net domestic product for the year 1980-81, the latest year for which estimates are available, was Rs. 1242 for rural areas and Rs. 2887 for urban areas. These estimates were at current prices. Such estimates are prepared only for census years.

Setting up *ot* funds for indigenisation of Defence production

1556. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up Rs. 1 crore development fund for indigenisation of defence production in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been set up to grant and sanction purchase of defence items and utilise this fund; and

(d) if so, what is the extent to which this will be helpful for indigenisation of defence production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration for development of vital parts required for initial main-tenace of newly imported equipment.

(b) Does not arise as it is yet to be sanctioned.

(c) The fund will be planned by DGQA based on the merit of each case.

(d) This fund will assist in taking advance action for undertaking develop ment of vital parts required for main tenance of new imported equipment to cover the gap of 2 to 3 years. The aim is to reduce the delays and speed up in digenisation thereby saving precious foreign exchange and cater for urgency of Defence operational needs.